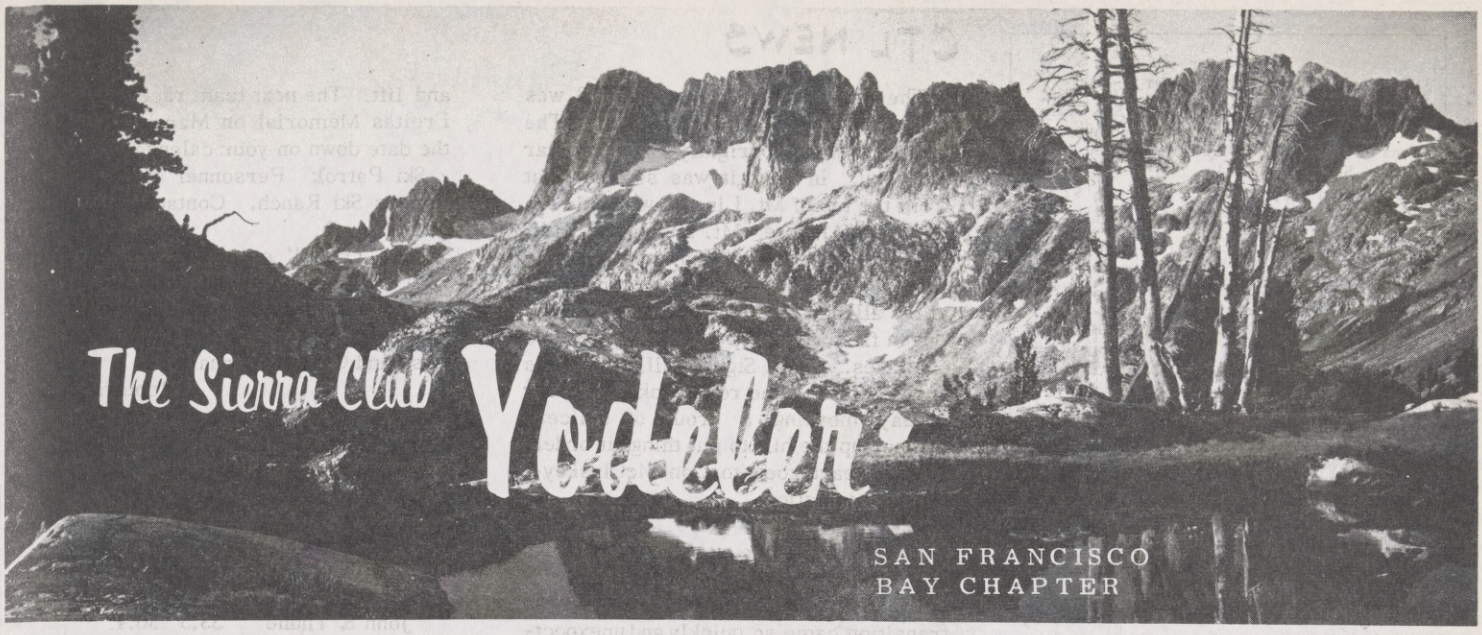

The Sierra Club Yodeler

SAN FRANCISCO BAY CHAPTER

Volume XXI | February 2, 1959 | Number 3

From a Proclamation

Greetings: I am happy to set aside the week of February 2 through 8 in observance of Far West Ski Week. I urge Californians to join me in a salute to the skiers and the ski industry in California by observing Far West Ski

--Edmund Brown, Governor
(non-member)

CONSERVATION REPORT

When the monthly bulletin reaches you, be sure to look carefully at the color photograph on the center page. It is a most eloquent argument for keeping semi-arid watersheds in an undisturbed condition. The Forest Service made plans to log the Kern plateau as long ago as 1938 and has gone steadily ahead with these plans in spite of protest. It has tentative plans for two wild areas, the Domes country (waterless) on the west of the Kern, and Whitney Meadows area on the north. The rest of the plateau will be gradually cut over and penetrated with logging roads which can only too easily become highways. It is estimated that cutting can only be done once in 140 years, but many ecologists think that the forests will never return even in the sparse growth we see at present. The watershed is extremely important to the southern San Joaquin Valley.

The Forest Service is convinced it is doing its duty. It sells trees. Conservationists think in this case the Service is mistaken. Clark H. Jones—Chairman of the Southern Section of the Conservation Committee has sent out a letter which we quote:

"The hour is late, but we can still win. If you agree with these sentiments, write immediately to President Dwight D. Eisenhower, White House, Washington, D.C. requesting that new roads and new timber sales be stopped on the Kern Plateau until his (the president's) Recreation Resources Review Commission has published its recommendations. Send carbon copies of each letter to your Congressman and to the two California Senators, Kuchel and Engle, with a request that they look into the matter."

In the State Legislature are many bills concerning water, wildlife, parks. The campaign to reduce the State Park Commission to an advisory body, (see last Yodeler) is out in the open with Assemblywoman Davis' bill of Jan. 28 and according to the newspapers the Governor is not sure what he thinks about it. This reporter hopes many will speak up for an independent Commission. No need to cut off the head to cure a headache. There are many bills "in lieu of taxes" i.e., compensation to local authorities out of State Park funds for use for park purposes. These can be a serious drain on funds. Senator Berry, as expected, has bills (S.B. 146 and 147) which direct the State Park Commission to grant the Highway Commission rights of way across the State Parks either side of Emerald Bay for a low level route, and also appropriates $2,000,000 for costs. Besides the bridge across the mouth of Emerald Bay this highway would ruin two most valuable parks.

(continued on page 2)

Profile in Black & White

The spotlight's glare falls on Ned Robinson, chairman of the Bay Chapter Executive Committee, who is presently heading this group for the second year. Ned has been a Sierra Club member (man and boy!) for 23 years. He has been a member of the club's burro trip committee since 1946 and a member of the club's outing committee since 1952. Ned is an avid ski enthusiast and has been on the winter sports committee since 1946. He also was in charge of construction of the Ludlow and Bradley ski huts in the Sierras, now much used by devotees of this popular "broken bone" activity of the club. Ned is a graduate of the Boalt School of Law at the University of California, class of 1951 and currently is a partner in an East Bay law firm. He is happily married to a girl he met while watching Cal lose (again!) in the Rose Bowl football game at Pasadena, and has three charming youngsters, all aspiring to be future Sierra Clubbers.

Ned feels that the most important and useful benefits gained by all Club members are the exploration and enjoyment of the natural scene, and that all possible effort should be made to conserve and protect these wonders of nature for the good of future generations.

-- EDB

(P.S. See Ned's complimentary reference to snowshoers in an accompanying article in this issue.)

Sierra Club Yodeler

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NEXT DEADLINE: February 16

VOLUME XXI NO. 3 — February 2, 1959

Conservation (continued)

One good resolution in the Assembly H.R. 1 emphasizes that military withdrawals should not be made without a proper hearing. We hop e it will be noticed in the Pentagon, for the Army is at it again! Anderson Peak just below the Big Sur is partly in the Ventana Wild area. There is already a radar station on the peak, the bulldozers are actively at work and now the Army wants to cut trees around the station. One item of good news. Contra Costa Park and Recreation Council has heard from Sierra Club member Congressman John Baldwin that the Army has abandoned the plan of a missile site on Mt. Diablo.

-- CMC

SUN VALLEY - LEARN TO SKI WEEK

The City Club, an organization of single adults, is forming a group to go to Sun Valley for a "Learn to Ski" week, the week of March 8. Transportation will be by charter bus on a share-cost basis. Accommodations are available. For information call Dr. Warren LoPresti, EXbrook 2-1354 or WAlnut 2-2234.

SUN VALLEY. Wanted: Man to share double room (private bath) in Challenger Inn February 14 to 21. If interested, call R. Wilson, GRaystone 4-3982, in evening.

* * * * * * * *

SKIS FOR SALE: KASTLE Combination, ski free bindings, used very little, excellent condition, 200 centimeters, 6'7". Price $60-65, or best offer. GRaystone 4-3947

CTL NEWS

The weekend of January 17-18 was beautiful—if you like spring skiing. The sun was shining brightly from a clear blue sky. In fact, it was so clear that from the top of Mt. Lincoln we could see the Coast Range, Mt. Diablo, and Mt. Shasta. On Friday night the Olympic Snow Queen Ball was held in Sacramento at the all-new El Dorado Hotel. The 1959 Queen from Fresno went home with scads of prizes. Circa Signal Hill, Jerry was busy—Saturday the rope broke, so early Sunday morning a group of splicers trouped up the hill to put things in order. Purple heart goes to Don McCluskey—wounded in action.

What a difference a week makes. With the 24th-25th came Old Man Winter with 10 to 15 inches of new snow. In fact the transition came so quickly and unexpectedly that many of us were caught minus long-johns—"Oh, how cold!". Although the precipitation was rather damp as it came down, it did pack well, and skiing on Signal was out of this world.

People you know, or should: Julius Siddon and Dorothy Carlson were married January 1. Archie Taylor is the new Assistant Manager at CTL. Though a newcomer to the lodge, Archie is learning fast and is a welcome addition to the staff.

Racers: Jim Nicklos is looking for you. Sunday slaloms started the 24th-25th on Signal Hill with Jim, Don Rehbein, and Bob Beatie showing the rest of us how. The BASF Winter Carnival is this weekend and they need packers and gate keepers. You will receive free lunches and lift. The next team race is the Bill Freitas Memorial on March 21. Mark the date down on your calendar.

Ski Patrol: Personnel are needed at Donner Ski Ranch. Contact Mr. Sailer at the Ranch.

"Ski Trails" each Thursday night at 9:30 on KQED, Channel 9 in San Francisco. Last showing of Warren Miller's movie in Berkeley's Garfield Jr. High, Rose and Grant, February 10.

—Roberta Codis

BEST TIMES

SUNDAY SLALOM 2/1/59

Jim Nicklos	31.2	34.	
Don Rehbein	31.8	32.3	33.4
Al Dixon	32.3	33.1	
Kurt Weckaiser	32.4	33.0	34.4
John S. Thune	33.5	36.4	
Kim Layton	34.6	34.8	
John Bethune	36.4	38.1	
Don McCluskey	36.8		
Jackie Paris	37.5	38.5	
Lotte Nicklos	37.6		
Jan Volz	37.7		
Don Huber	38.3	39.6	
John Pope	38.5		
Ann Macey	38.6	45.2	
Bill Pope	39.2	40.3	
Fred Voltmer	39.3		
Gerhardt Mildner	41.8	42.6	46.5
Diane Clayton	41.8		
Don Francis	42.4		
Steve Liberman	45.8		
Susie Hofer	47.2		
Judy Miller	47.6		
Jean Kearney	51.4	55.7	

The Annual Dinner

Will Be Held

Saturday, April 25

(Note Date Change)

The Time: 6:00 p.m. Cocktails
Dinner 7:00 p.m.

The Place: The Village
Columbus at Lombard
San Francisco

The Price: $4.00 each

Claudia Owen, Chairman

Watch YODELER for Announcement of Ticket Sellers and Make Your Reservations Early

CONTEST

A reminder that the Yodeler is now in the contest business.

The next issue will be the first using prize stories and articles submitted by readers, stories of hikes and outings past or future, to liven these pages and bring new names to the field of Yodeler literature.

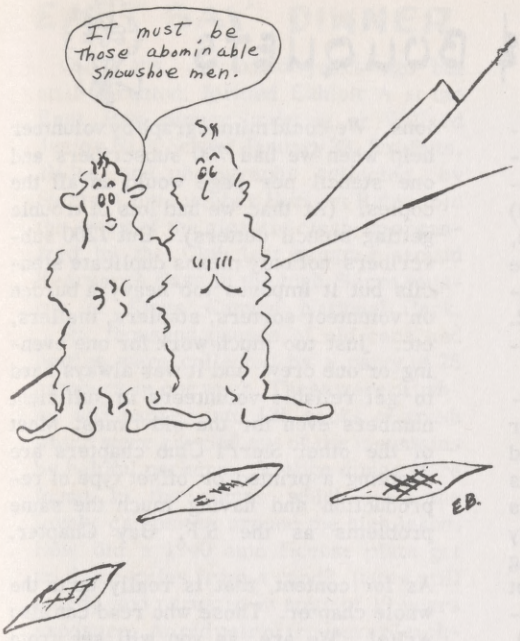
Everyone going skiing, snowshoeing, river touring, hiking, or nature-walking in February and March is hereby urged, begged and drafted to send in a story of the outing, addressed Yodeler, Sierra Club, Mills Tower, San Francisco 4.

Writers of the most interesting stories will receive a year's subscription to the Yodeler.

Present (and immediately past) Yodeler staff members are ineligible for the contest.

So load your pockets and knapsack with pencils and paper and start the copy rolling in!

--AR



This cartoon is reprinted from our last issue in connection with the article at right, by one who really feels that snowshoers are abominable.

This war between skier Ned Robinson and various other exec. committee members who walk—not slide—on snow breaks out at recurring intervals.

A Post Script to the PINECREST TRIP

There was also a snowshoe trip to Benson Hut scheduled for the same weekend as the beginners trip at Pinecrest. But Benson was billed: "Experienced snowshoers only!" As it turned out, Pinecrest had a definite edge on experience.

Fifteen of us headed for Benson from Donner Summit, but got only as far as the ridge between Judah and Lincoln. Up there gale winds, driving snow, and, by now, wet clothing forced a retreat to Hutchinson Lodge. No steak dinner ever tasted so good! Afterwards there was folk-dancing at CTL for those who could tear away from the fire. A good part of Sunday was devoted to digging out our cars, but there was time for the traditional "beginners' trek" to the warming hut on Signal Hill—some did struggle a little beyond.

In any event, we ask you to judge for yourselves—who are the experienced snowshoers now?

—Phyllis Lindley
Rear-leader & Reporter

Are Snowshoers Really People?

Your (Lou Elliott's) report on the lost party of snowshoers wandering around Dodge Ridge confirms my prior statement on snowshoers to the extent that I feel certain rules should be enacted to govern the snowshoeing section of the Bay Chapter.

First, however, I should point out that I feel you and your son Bob, being skiers, are primarily responsible for the fact that the snowshoers were lost. As has been previously indicated on occasions too numerous to mention, snowshoers, without a skier along, are like sheep without a shepherd or sheep dog and might wander to their death over the nearest precipice.

At the next meeting of the Bay Chapter Executive Committee I would propose the following rules be enacted to govern all snowshoeing trips:

1. At least one snowshoer on each trip must be able to read and write, as well as speak, basic English.
2. All snowshoeing activities shall take place only on clear, cloudless days. In the event a cloud shall appear, all snowshoers shall immediately proceed to the nearest shelter.
3. All snowshoeing excursions will end at least three hours prior to sundown (to avoid the danger of being out after dark). As a safety precaution there should be at least one red lantern in each snowshoeing group.
4. Since there is safety in numbers no snowshoeing group should ever consist of less than ten persons.
5. No snowshoeing group will ever be out of sight of a resort or principal highway without being accompanied by a skier.
6. No snowshoeing group will ever undertake an overnight camping or hut trip unless accompanied by at least one skier.
7. No snowshoer shall ever be separated from the party by more than 50 feet without being accompanied by a skier.
8. Any skier undertaking the responsibility of accompanying a group of snowshoers shall not, under any circumstances, leave the group as he is completely responsible for the care and safety of all snowshoers.
9. The equipment of each snowshoer shall be checked prior to the departure on any trip for completeness and safety by a skier.

continued

10. At least one out of every four snowshoers shall be belled with a suitable burro or donkey bell.
11. Every snowshoer must be able to distinguish, without undue hesitation, his left from his right.
12. Under no circumstances will any snowshoer ever be presumed to be able to "think for himself".

Any additional suggestions will be gratefully received.

—Ned Robinson, Chairman
Bay Chapter Executive Committee

Dr. Bradley to Show SKI FILM

"Skiing in the Sierra", a series of colored motion pictures, will be presented by Dr. Harold Bradley, Sierra Club president, at Berkeley's Live Oak Recreation Center, Shattuck Avenue and Berryman St., Wednesday February 18, 7:30 p.m.

These pictures are taken from a trip by Dr. Bradley and his son, both expert skiers. The beauties of the high country winter scenes should appeal to all interested in winter sports.

The program is being presented by the Berkeley Hiking Club. The public is invited. Admission is free.

ALL DOWNHILL SKI TOUR

Fred Sandrock's Mt. Lincoln to Donner Lake ski run, listed in your schedule for February 14 and March 14, will start at 2 p.m. instead of 3 p.m.

SAVE THE DATE

The next East Bay Dinner on Wednesday, February 11 will have as guest speaker John McKenzie, Superintendent of Fort Ross State Park, who is now a well-known authority on the fascinating subject of the Russian colonization of the Northern California coast. Mr. McKenzie has carried out many interesting excavations at Fort Ross. His wife, Alice Mulford McKenzie, is well known in the S.F. Bay Area. She has served on the Bay Chapter Executive Committee, and is now on the Executive Committee of the new Redwood Chapter of the Club. See the schedule for additional details on this mid-week dinner meeting.

--CMC

HAVASU ... Repeat Announcement

Joe Wampler will again offer his Havasu trip at special rates to Sierra Club members this year.

Havasu is the beautiful tributary canyon of the Grand Canyon and is outstanding because of its striking and colorful cliffs and rock formations, the blue-green color of its water and its waterfalls. It is the more interesting because it is the home of the Havasupai Indians, whose village is visited on the trip.

Joe will meet trip members at Peach Springs, Arizona, at 7:00 A.M. Monday, March 30. The trip actually starts at Hualpai Hilltop, 70 miles beyond Peach Springs, with a 10 mile hike to Joe's base camp. From there day hikes will radiate to different destinations

The special price to Sierra Club members of $48 covers food from lunch on Monday, March 30, through lunch on Saturday, April 4.

Reservation requests should be addressed to Walter Oppenheimer, 1288 - 36th Avenue, San Francisco, 22, OVerland 1-5536 and be accompanied by remittance for the trip fee payable to Joe Wampler. For information and transportation coordination contact Walter Oppenheimer.

—Walt Oppenheimer

ARTOGRAPHY

Alexander G. Weygers, sculptor, engraver, engineer, is introducing a new word in the arts as he brings his exceptional illustrated lecture to the Academy of Sciences Auditorium in Golden Gate Park on February 19 at 8:15 P.M. Instead of the sculptor's chisel or the painter's brush, the camera now becomes the artist's new tool: ARTOGRAPHY is the result.

With color slides Weygers illustrates how the artist interprets ordinary subjects in nature (grasses, mushrooms, sand, bark, dew drops) revealing beauties of tonal designs. Using only ordinary daylight and the camera he discovers aesthetic and technical qualities most beautiful and rare.

This past year Mr. Weygers has shown to packed houses at the Golden Bough Theater in Carmel and at Stanford University this month. This will be his premiere in San Francisco. Tickets are $1.00, available the night of the performance. Box office opens at 7:00 P.M.

BRICKBATS & BOUQUETS

A very frank Yodelereader, in renewing her subscription, commented that although she couldn't do better, the journalism (conservation column excepted) is hardly worthy of a high school class, that the old-style mimeographing style was just about as good, and that in general The Yodeler isn't worth the $2.

The following is from a reply and explanation by Cicely M. Christy:

The costs, rates, and contents of the Yodeler have been discussed by the Chapter Executive Committee more often and longer than any other business that has come up in the last three years. It has never at any time paid its way. Every so often the loss per copy due to rising prices of paper, postage, etc. gets just too much and they have to ask the subscribers to foot a bit more of the bill. I believe the loss is now below a cent per copy, 10¢ to the subscriber and something about 11¢ to the Chapter. I should have to ask Lou Elliott and the Chapter Treasurer for exact details. The kind of paper (you wonder if the old paper would be cheaper.....No.) has to be the smooth kind for proper printing, the old kind was for mimeograph work. Nobody seems to object to a small space for pictures and they are very valuable to supplement the wording.

Our chief trouble is that Yodeler is in an adolescent stage of its life. It has grown too big for childish dress and is too small for mass produced adult fashions. We could mimeograph by volunteer help when we had 700 subscribers and one stencil per page would do all the copies. (At that, we had lots of trouble getting stencil cutters). But 1200 subscribers not only means duplicate stencils but it imposes too heavy a burden on volunteer sorters, staplers, mailers, etc. Just too much work for one evening or one crew, and it was always hard to get reliable volunteers in sufficient numbers even for the old times. Most of the other Sierra Club chapters are adopting a printed or offset type of reproduction and having much the same problems as the S.F. Bay Chapter.

As for content, that is really up to the whole chapter. Those who read can also write! We are, as you will see from the new issue thinking up ways of encouraging contributions. We never know when material will come in and the staff does its best to stretch and augment the news we get. The Executive Committee is making a great effort to get all committees and sections covered and I think the combined efforts will give the staff more choice of material to work on. What is your special interest in activities? How about writing something for us when you have had an interesting trip or see some announcement or event in the papers which might have reader appeal? You never know what you can do till you try!

MALACOLOGY

The Northern California Malacozoological Club meets on the first Tuesday of the month in room 4005 of the Life Sciences Building on the Berkeley Campus of the University of Calif. Shell lovers, beach combers, tide pool enthusiasts as well as serious students of Malacology and Conchology are welcome. Ned Allison, president, can be reached at LA 5-3347. The February meeting is being omitted because on Feb. 22 at 2:00 p.m. the Club is touring the Museum of Malacology at Stanford as guests of Prof. Myra Keen whose newest book, "Seashells of Western North America" has been grabbed by shell lovers the minute it hit the book-seller's shelves.

Sierra Clubbers are cordially invited to go on this trip to Stanford.

KNAPSACKERS PARTY

Knapsackers, old and new, will gather for their annual dinner and party on Saturday, March 7. The location is the same as last year: Old Lake Merritt Boathouse (the one with a canoe on top). Dinner begins at 6 P.M., followed by folk singing, slide showing and we hope to include a description of the one-week trips planned for this summer. Those wishing to bring slides should limit themselves to five. The evening will be topped off with folk dancing.

To start the knapsacking season early, buy your ticket now—ticket sale deadline Thursday, March 5. Price: $1.25. For tickets call Bob Hackamack, Mary and Bill Hamblin or Doug Peterson.

—Bob Hackamack

EAST BAY DINNER

Old cans, discarded years ago but still unrusted, formed Exhibit A at the East Bay dinner meeting at Willard Junior High School January 28. Exhibits, slides and photographs collected by Sierra Club member Herbert Rubin told the story of the gigantic clean-up organized by the Club last summer around Kearsarge Pass in the high Sierra country of Kings Canyon National Park.

Six thousand pounds of old cans and bottles were collected by a party of 25 campers in one week. These were crushed and packed into 125 sacks of trash which were carried out of the mountains by helpful packers. Strange things were found in the dumps which spoil the lovely campsites around the high lakes. How did a 1940 auto license plate get up there miles from a road? It was still sturdy and unrusted in spite of 19 years exposure. An old pair of trousers bleached by sun and snow; bottles of every shape and size; boxes of broken glass picked up from the lakeshore, went into the trash bags. Three campers once punched their names and a date on a large can. They would be startled to read those names clearly on a picture taken 21 years later!

Dr. Harold C. Bradley, Sierra Club president, was present at the meeting to show his own experiments on the trash problem. Beer cans left exposed in his own garden in Berkeley since 1951 still showed the brand name clearly and would remain solid beer cans for years to come.

There is only one solution, said Dr. Bradley. If we do not want our beauty spots buried under trash, the cans which go to camp with us must come home to the city dump. The slogan for future trips to the mountains will be "You CAN take it with you." --CMC

(The above article, altered only to indicate what East Bay dinners are, was submitted to the daily press in the East Bay. Any readers who come across it are urged to send the clippings to the Yodeler, c/o Sierra Club.--Ed.)

SUMMER CAMP OPPORTUNITY

The Piedmont Council, Boy Scouts of America, are looking for a doctor for their summer camp for a 5 week period starting June 18, 1959. Facilities are available for a family and quarters and salary are paid. The camp is located in the Feather River country close to Quincy. Persons interested should contact the office at 10 Highland Way, Piedmont 11, California.

THIS RIVER TOURING SECTION

Four handy individuals rode up to Cloverdale January 18 and put into the Russian River for a ride down to the bridge in Cloverdale. The four (Bryce Whitmore, Eleanor Ridge, Ted Fostiak and George (?)) drove through the cold damp morning fog and hit beautiful weather—clear blue sky, sunshine, and not too cold. The run was made from just below the graveyard. Several portages were necessary because the river was so very low. The four made it down and were most thankful for the wet suits that they wore. However, George shivered and shook for about a quarter of the way down after dumping.

Write it down now in big red letters—the next meeting of the RTS is February 10 and is to be held at the old Boathouse on Lake Merritt. Bob Pruitt, who went down the river "with" the kayakers last July, will be there to show some of his movies of his trips on the Rogue and to tell about his experiences.

The Annual Boat Show will be held again this year, March 10, at our regular monthly meeting. This is something to see. Do you have a foldboat or a rigid kayak you want to show or do you know of someone who has a new model which should be shown? Do your best to get it shown. Call Glenn Gaumer for details.

New Yodelerstaffers WANTED

Do any of our readers have any ideas how The Yodeler could be improved? Like to see if you have a flair for writing? Or perhaps just help with typing, proofreading, etc.?

If you would like to help with your club—just drop a line to the editor. It may be the start of a career in journalism. Chances for advancement are excellent—several staffers have resigned since fall, and the editor, who has been on the staff over five years, feels that is just about long enough (although I hope that not too many of you agree). --HF

I would like to suggest that the Car Camping Committee schedule more trips to the High Sierras on weekends during June, July, and August.

I am in a position where I do not have a summer vacation and must be many others who have the same problem. My family enjoys the beautiful Sierras and of course our only opportunity is on weekends during the summer season.

Yodelereaders who feel as I do, please write the Car Camping Committee and offer your suggestions.

--Harvey Mielenz

The *"Marlboro Man"* in the HAMMER "Champion" runs the rapids of the turbulent Feather River in California.

The "Marlboro Man" Courtesy Universal Pictures

This classy Single has been designed especially for the American White Water and built with German craftsmanship and quality.

The pronounced rocker, insuring high maneuverability, and the exceptional stability make the "Champion" the ideal single seater in which to enjoy the thrills of foldboating.

Other HAMMER quality boats are: The sporty and swift Slalom, the elegant and rugged Wandering and Touring Doubles (Gold Medal Winner California State Fair 1957).

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The Banton Corp.

24 California Street

San Francisco 11, Calif.

Dealerships still available in some States.

EXCITEMENT runs high as RTS members, Gordon Bermak, Bryce Whitmore, Bob Gray, and Lou Elliott, enter Mule Creek Canyon, one of the highlights on the 1958 Rogue Trip.

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BOB PRUITT TO SHOW
ROGUE RIVER - Color Film

The Sierra Club's River Touring Group is anxious that anyone who enjoys the outdoors and who would like to know more about the fast growing river touring activity have the opportunity to see these beautiful films. No matter what your interest is, family type float trips through scenic and unspoiled wilderness, or learning to ride the rapids for the sheer exhilaration of the sport, you should not miss this showing.

BOB PRUITT is one of the best known (and liked) professional boatmen in the Pacific Northwest. His experience covers many seasons of river running and photographing some of the most scenic and exciting streams including the Rogue and Illahee in Oregon and the Owyhee and Salmon Rivers in Idaho. He will have many interesting first hand accounts of his trips down these remote, wild rivers. You will enjoy meeting this engaging river personality.

Date: TUESDAY EVENING, FEB. 10th
Time: 8:00 P.M. Sharp
Place: Lake Merritt Canoe House
14th and Oak Streets, Oakland
Admission Free. Come and bring your friends.

BEAUTY--- One of the lovely campsites on the Rogue. In foreground: Elsa Bailey and Bob Pruitt study map for the following days' run. Photos by Glen Gaumer.

The Sierra Club
1050 Mills Tower 220 Bush Street
San Francisco 4, California